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... was  
in the case until his  
arrestment last February.

## Rewald Bail Is Lowered to \$140,000

Circuit Judge Robert Won Bae Chang this morning reduced Ronald Rewald's bail to \$140,000 after Rewald's attorney said his client had to be freed from prison to assist in his own defense.

Attorney Samuel King Jr. told Judge Chang that Rewald has been unable to post the \$200,000 bail set earlier. Original bail set for Rewald when he was arrested on theft charges last year was \$10 million.

Rewald — head of the bankrupt investment company of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong — may be able to post the new bail amount, King said. Rewald's family in Wisconsin is willing to put up property worth about \$185,000 to meet the amount, King said.

KING TOLD Chang that Rewald could not post the \$200,000 amount because bonding companies require more than that for collateral.

Deputy City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle opposed the bail reduction.

"Once again, we tread down this long and very worn path. Let's stop having bail reduction motions on this man," Carlisle said.

King said Rewald has to be released from prison to help prepare his defense because of the complexity of the case.

King said he would begin immediately to work on Rewald's release but did not know how long the process would take.

11/12/84

H. Star-Gallagher

*Honolulu Advertiser*  
*Friday, January 13, 1984*

## Rewald bail cut again; freedom still in doubt



**Ronald Rewald**  
Trial "colossal job"

Jailed businessman Ronald R. Rewald won a reduction in his bail from \$200,000 to \$140,000 yesterday, but his attorney expressed doubts about whether Rewald can post the lowered amount.

In any case, attorney Samuel King Jr. said it will take two weeks to prepare the paperwork for a \$140,000 bond.

Circuit Judge Robert W.B. Chang set the new amount after King asked for a reduction to \$100,000, an amount that the attorney said Rewald might be able to post with his relatives' property in Wisconsin and \$20,000 raised by his family.

King argued that the task of preparing for trial is a "colossal job." He said he has to go through three volumes of printouts of various transactions. Rewald has to be free in order to help prepare the case, King said.

"My major resource is my client," said the court-appointed attorney.

Deputy Prosecutor Peter Carlisle protested that "once again, we tread down this long and very worn path" of trying to reduce the bail. He argued that the judge should abide by the \$200,000 which was approved by the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Rewald is scheduled to go on trial in June on theft charges of stealing from investors of his now-defunct company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

His bail was originally set at \$10 million, but reduced to \$200,000. The high court later said the amount didn't have to be in cash, but could be covered by a bond.

Initially, it was believed that Rewald could go free if he could pay \$20,000 to a bonding company, which would post a \$200,000 bond.

But King said yesterday bonding companies charge more than 10 percent for bonds in that amount and require more property than can be put up by Rewald's family.

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HONOLULU

# FAST-TALKERS IN PARADISE

Hawaii residents and tourists are bilked out of millions of dollars each year with deals that sound too good to be true. Here are some of the many swindles, rip-offs and dubious deals that have popped up in the Islands in recent years, along with experts' suggestions on how you can avoid being taken

By  
Alan Waldman

VERN BRYE GETS A LOT OF ANGRY MAIL. LAWYERS, EDITORS, EX-HUSBANDS and politicians get angry mail too, but nothing like the stack of outrage that towers over Brye's desk each morning. Brye is the head of Hawaii's Better Business Bureau, the agency one of the more than 100,000 residents and visitors turn to when they think they've been swindled, suckered or short-changed. The complaints he handles range from that of a lady who was flimflammed out of 50 grand on a phony land deal to the outraged consumer who wants to sue a drugstore because the condom he purchased there burst.

Of the 2,887 written complaints Brye received in 1981, 678 were prompted by delays or damage in delivery, 1,059 were prompted by poor repairs, 266 by shabby products, 240 by obnoxious credit or billing practices, 219 by promised but unpaid refunds and 95 by sleazy sales tactics. The primary objects of their ire (in order) were mail-order firms (42 percent), car dealers, time-sharing outfits, travel agents, jewelry stores, real estate concerns, auto repair establishments, insurance companies and (alas) magazines.

Another place where outraged consumers can turn to for help is the Office of Consumer Protec-

Con games pulled on tourists are particularly prevalent since the operators realize the victims won't be around long to follow up a complaint. A Waikiki outfit called China Fair Inc. bilked 125 visitors of \$184,450 in 1978 by selling furniture it never delivered. High-powered sales techniques were used by some time-share companies (particularly the notorious Paradise Palms outfit, which is no longer in business here). Tourists are harassed by street solicitors, sold fake watches with names that resemble those of famous makes, and frequently overcharged in Waikiki. These experiences, along with the ongoing practice of duping male visitors into paying hundreds of dollars to buy non-alcoholic drinks for women who they mistakenly believe will offer them sexual favors, are the kinds of practices that can give Hawaii tourism a bad name.

How can consumers avoid being scammed? The BBB, OCP, HPD and Postal Inspection Service all echo the same warning: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Beware of pitchmen who promise extraordinarily high returns on investments, ridiculously cheap prices, valuable

free gifts or prizes or other unusual benefits—particularly if you buy *now* (and for cash). They are counting on your greed to cloud your judgment.

## AGAINST INVESTORS

The most recent alleged investment fraud was the bucket shop (phony brokerage) operation known as General Commodities (and previously as National Commodities). According to HPD, the firm was part of a vast international organization operating in 11 countries and masterminded from Hong Kong. The Honolulu branch was run by a man named Kei C. Yamato and his partner, Seizo Kuroda. Yamato has been the subject of at least a dozen lawsuits over the past 11 years. He and Kuroda allegedly took more than \$20,000 from various investors and employees with two previous operations known as International Consultant Partnership and Saudi Arabian Pacific Business Council.

According to one of the recent lawsuits filed against Yamato, Kuroda and General Commodities, em-

ployees of the firm "represented to plaintiffs that their funds would be used for the purpose of investing in commodities futures contracts on either the Hong Kong or Tokyo exchanges. In fact, contracts were never executed... and plaintiffs were simply given false quotes on subsequent days indicating that their investments had been lost." After the firm was kicked off the Hong Kong exchange, it continued to do business as if nothing had happened. According to HPD, the telex machine in the operations area which supposedly confirmed transactions with the Hong Kong and Tokyo exchanges was actually exchanging phony messages with another machine across the room. Earlier this year HPD raided General Commodities and seized its records—but not before 200 victims had been taken for \$2 million.

Two other fellows took about \$2.5 million from 100 local investors in a controversial oil drilling investment venture in Kansas. Police investigators believe that while wells may actually have been drilled at the beginning, that practice may not

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